

The Athenian Mercury:

Tuesday, April 11. 1693.

We think good to give Notice, that Mr. C—— S—— mention'd in our Mercury Numb. 4. Quest. 4. and 5. Vol. 10. is not the Author that wrote the Annotations upon the Bible, which Annotations we understand by Judicious men are written with great Judgment and Accuracy.

Question. **G**ent. A Friend of mine that lives in Bristol so importunes me daily with Letters and other Messages about Questions, that my Purse can no longer bear the Expence he has put me to for Postage, sending me every Week ten Questions at the least, and I think since he has begun, at least above an 100, many of which I've sent to you, but ne're cou'd have one of 'em answer'd, which is the harder, because the Gentleman has a very high Esteem of your Mercury, having all the Volumes since it came out neatly bound and gilded, and longing extreamly to see some of his own Wit Printed among so much of Yours and others: If you have any pity, Gentlemen, for a poor Man, worse pelted with Post Letters than ever Dr. —— was after he took the Oaths, or any Flesh alive besides your selves (who therefore can the better judge what 'tis) be so kind to Answer some of these his following Quest. and thereby highly Oblige both him and your, &c.

Q. 1. Whether a Man is not sensible whether he shall be happy or unhappy before he leave the World?

Answ. First to your Letter, if your Friend be troublesome already when he has no Encouragement, by having any of his Questions Answer'd, what think you will he be when he finds himself so famous, and all the World (that have nothing else to do but to read our Mercuries) shall know that Squire —— of —— has the Honour to be 9 or 10 Questions deep in Athens? But look you to that, now to the Question. We have known several Persons, and We believe it holds with most, who a few moments before their Death have had strong and lively persuasions of their being happy or miserable in another State; nor can it be otherwise, since such reflections are the genuine consequence of a Life spent in Lewdness or Virtue: But whether such a persuasion as this be infallible, how shou'd we know, unless two or three of our Society wou'd make the Experiment, and not only dye, but come back again to resolve his Question.

Quest. 2. Whether if a Man has an only Daughter, and Marries her to a Shopkeeper who breaks, but lives well on his Estate, may he detain this Daughter lawfully from her Husband; and if he may, whether there's any way for a Man to recover his Wife again? This is matter of Fact, therefore pray let it be answer'd.

Answ. Nothing ought to separate those whom God has joyn'd, without it be a Cause indeed of very great weight and moment: Suppose heighth of Lewdness, or absolute carelessness to maintain a Wife and Children, or such intolerable Abuses as put her really in danger of her Life, and we question whether any other Causes can be sufficient, where a Marriage is once valid. For the way of recovering such a Wife again, if worth charges, you may consult our Indexes, and find it in some former Volumes.

Quest. 3. Who was the first Lawyer?

Answ. We can tell you who was the first Lawyer, (forgive the Pun if you can, for the sake of the Old Story) who was the first Cheat, and first troublesome Disputant, Brangler, or if you please Bareiner, that ever was in the World; but for the first profess'd Lawyer, tho' we

verily believe there was never any more ancient than those we have been talking of, We must ingeniously subscribe N. L.

Quest. 4. What is a Cloud?

Answ. Consult former Mercuries.



Quest. 5. What's a Star?

Answ. It's generally now thought that all the fix'd Stars are Suns, and 'tis plain that all the Planets besides are opacous Substances, and very probably of much the same Nature with our Earthy Globe.

Quest. 6. Pray prescribe Rules to please a passionate Father, and to break my self of being passionate, which is not easie, because I take my Blood from him?

Answ. Never cross him when he's Angry; never do any thing that looks like a slight upon him; be ready to Obey his Commands, and remember he's your Father. For your Self, 'tis sure enough that the Inclinations we receive from our Parents are much to be better'd and conquer'd by Industry and Reason, tho' Example teaches more forcibly than either. Do but observe then how your Father looks when he's Passionate, how he exposes himself, and what weak things he speaks and does, and always reflect upon this 3 minutes 3 quarters precisely by your Watch whenever you feel your self inclin'd to Passion, and this alone, We shou'd think, as 'tis a very proper, so wou'd prove an efficacious Remedy.

Quest. 7. Whether a Man does not sin as much in spending his Money foolishly, as in being Covetous?

Answ. Upon some Accounts we think more, for a Prodigal Man in our Judgments is a worse Member of the Common-wealth than the Covetous, because a Man may be Covetous without injuring any but himself, and some or other will at least get something by his Death, but the Prodigal Man not only ruines his own Family, but very frequently all besides that have any thing to do with him; and when he dies, cheats all besides the Worms; and so fare thee well Bristol.

Quest. 8. I would desire you to give me a true Definition of Extortion in general, and withhold your Opinion of Pawn-brokers, whether their Calling be contrary to God's Law? and whether they come not under the Condemnation threatened in the Scriptures to Extortioners, seeing they lend their Money to supply Peoples Necessities, and the Interest they receive so inconsiderable, as it can never hurt the Borrower, considering the Advantage they may turn the Money to for the time they have it? Pray let me have your Answer in your next Mercury, because there lies one or two in great doubt for want of satisfaction, which they do expect from you.

Answ. The most Critical Notion of Extortion, We take to be, unjustly and violently taking away what's another Man's in time of Peace, either by Policy or Power: For Pawn-brokers, tho' We Confess they have an ill Name, as Usurers once had, and ought still to have if Sir F—— C—— be in the right, yet certainly if what the Querist alleges be true, if their Gains are but proportionable and moderate, it can be no Extortion, but rather a Benefit to the Poor, being, We think, of the same Nature with the Lumber-Banks.

Quest. 9. Three Men meet together, A. B. C. their Discourse is in praising their Wives Chastity; above the rest A. says that his Wife is so Chaste that he does believe no Man can make him a Cuckold; C. says that he can, and thereupon they Stake a Wager, and A. is to be Stairs-keeper, and if his Wife calls Murder, he was

was not to let any up to her Assistance ; *B*'s Wife hearing their Discourse goes with a design to acquaint her with it, but *A*. puts her back and will not let her go, whereupon she Miscarries, and the Child dyes ; *C*. comes down and Swears he hath Won the Wager, and demands it from *B*. and he will not surrender it to him because there was no Proof : I desire your Answer to these Queries,

9. Whether *A*. be not guilty of Murdering the Child ?

10. Whether *A*. and *C*. be not guilty of Adultery ?

11. How must the Wager be decided, since there is but single Proof ?

Answ. The Fact is so strange We hardly believe it ; but on supposition of its being Truth, We think *A*. guilty of Murder, because the Child was kill'd in an Unlawful Action ; *A*. and *C*. guilty of Adultery, unless *C*. lies, and besides, *A*. the honourable He-Bawd to his own beloved Spouse — And for the Wager, she can best decide it.

Quest. 12. I would desire to know whether Eggs may not be Hatched and brought to Chickens with a continued Material Warmth, without a Hen or any Natural Heat ?

Answ. Yes, undoubtedly they are so, Millions at a Batch in Grand Cairo, and may as well be in Europe, if we had the knack on't, the Duke of Tuscany having built Oveas, and produc'd live Chickens in the same manner.

Quest. 13. Gentlemen, I have Observed in a Book printed lately, viz. *The Second Volume of the Pacquet broke Open*, a pretty Fancy, Letter IX. pag. 64. where treating of the Moluques (as he calls 'em) he Notes one particular Custom or Policy, That every Morning at Break of Day a Drummer goes round the Town, and Summons the Men to perform, &c. it being the Publick Interest that the Inhabitants should multiply. I humbly crave your Opinion of this Custom, and Answer to the following Query ; Would not (do you think) most of our Citizens Wives be more ready to contribute to such an Officer, than their Husbands are commonly to the Watch-men ?

Answ. If you have e're a Wife of your own, pray ask her.

Quest. 14. Whether it is more dishonourable to kill a Woman that has Jilted one in the grossest manner imaginable, than it is to kill a Man that has done one a great Injury ?

Answ. Yes, because let her have done what she will, she's still a Woman.

Quest. 15. A Gentleman of a very plentiful Estate, and having a desire to Educate his Son and Heir in the best manner he can, and to accomplish him with all sorts of Learning and breeding, is advised to put him into the charge of a Man that keeps an Academy, who is recommended to him to be a fit (well made) man for that purpose, but upon his Enquiry of him he is well satisfied he is a very Ill man in his Morals, and of a lewd, vicious and debauch'd Life and Conversation : Your Opinion is desired, Whether the Example of such a Pedagogue may not be prejudicial to the aforesaid young Gentleman's Education ? if so, you are desired to give some Directions for the well Educating the said young Gentleman.

Answ. If his Education be left wholly to such a Person, undoubtedly his Example, if notorious especially, wou'd be very dangerous — But Query — Who's this that in such an Age thinks his Child has any Soul to be taken Care of ? For his Education what wou'd you have him Learn ? Languages, History, and other parts of Necessary Learning, he may be taught by an Ingenious Tutor, either at home, or the Universities, which are certainly (We positively affirm it of our own certain Knowledge, as far as our Words will go) much less Debaucht than London. Then for Dancing, Fencing, and if he please Musick, and other parts of Mathematicks, there are particular Masters ; and for the Great Horse, he must stay till his Bones are well knit before he learn it — We forgot to add, that if you send him

to the Universities, it may not be unservicable to cast an Eye upon some hints We have formerly given on that Subject.

¶ The Ninth Volume of the Athenian Mercury, with a General Title, Preface and Index to it, will be Publish'd next Thursday, sticht up in Marble Paper.

¶ The Compleat Library for March was Publish'd yesterday. Price Six Pence. Both Printed for John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry.

Advertisements.

There is now Publish'd

¶ *Iuris Tigurina*, or the Book of Common Prayers and Administration of the Sacraments, and other Ecclesiastical Rites and Ceremonies usually Practised and solemnly Performed in all the Churches and Chappels of the City and Canton of Zurich in Switzerland, and in some other adjacent Countries, as by their Canons and Ecclesiastical Laws they are Appointed, and as by the Supream Power of the right Honourable the Senate of Zurich they are Authorized, Established and Commanded ; With the Orders of that Church. Faithfully Translated out of the *Helvetian* into the English Tongue by John Conrad Werndly, Minister of Wraisbury cum Langley in the County of Bucks. Recommended as a Work that may be of very good Satisfaction and Use by several of our Reverend Bishops. Printed for Dorman Newman, Richard Baldwin, and John Dunton.

¶ That Ingenious Lady who says she has receiv'd several Letters from her own Sex, which she designs for the *Third Volume of the Packet broke open*, is desired forthwith to send 'em to Mr. Chappel ; for his *Second Volume* having met with a good Reception, his *Third* is now Preparing for the Press.

¶ A Conference betwixt a Modern Atheist and his Friend. By the Methodizer of The Second Spira. The Contents whereof are, viz. Dial. 1. That the Existence of a God and a thinking Principle in us is more evident than any Mathematick Demonstration. Dial. 2. That the Soul is not Thought, nor any Modification of the Body which necessarily ceases to Exist upon the indisposition or dissolution of the Body. Dial. 3. That the Soul must necessarily exist and act though in a State separate from the Body. Dial. 4. That the Soul, or this I that thinks, must be sensible of Happiness or Misery in a State separate from the Body. — This Book is Printed on the same size with the second Spira, that they might bind up together. Price Six Pence.

Printed for John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry.

The Righteous Man's Hope at Death consider'd and improv'd for the Comfort of Dying Christians, and the Support of Surviving Relations : To which is added Death-Bed Reflections, &c. Proper for a Righteous Man in his last Sickness. By Samuel Doolittle. This was the first Sermon the Author Preacht after the Death of his Mother Mrs. Mary Doolittle, who Deceased Dec. 16. 1692. and is since enlarged.

London, Printed for Tho. Cockerill at the three Leggs in the Poultry, over against the Stocks-Market. 1693.

¶ In Grays-Inn-lane in Ploy-yard, the third Door, lives Dr. Thomas Kirleus, a Collegiate Physician, and Sworn Physician in Ordinary to King Charles the Second, until his death ; who with a Drink and Pill (hindring no Bulness) undertakes to Cure any Ulcers, Sores, Swellings in the Nose, Face, or other parts ; Scabs, Itch, Scurfs, Leprosies, and Venerial Disease, expecting nothing until the Cure be finished : Of the last he hath cured many hundreds in this City, many of them after fluxing, which carries the evil from the Lower Parts to the Head, and so destroys many. The Drink is 3 s. the Quart, the Pill 1 s. a Box, with Directions ; a better Purger than which was never given, for they cleanse the Body of all Impurities, which are the causes of Dropes, Gouts, Scurvies, Stone or Gravel, Pains in the Head, and other parts. With another Drink at 1 s. 6 d. a Quart. He cures all Fevers and hot Distempers without Bleeding, except in few Bodies. He gives his Opinion to all that writes or comes for nothing.